

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GABORO 03172 141223Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /079 W  
-----038363 141229Z /15

P R 140836Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1247  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 3172

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDIP PINT BC  
SUBJ: ESTABLISHMENT OF DUBAN-BOTSWANA DEPLOMATIC RELATIONS

REF: (A) GABORONE 2236, (B) GABORONE 2684

1. DECEMBER 9 RADIO BOTSWANA AND DECEMBER 12 DAILY NEWS  
ANNOUNCED THAT BOTSWANA AND CUBA WOULD ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC  
RELATIONS AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL. THERE FOLLOWS FULL TEXT  
OF GOB ANNOUNCEMENT, AS REPORTED IN DAILY NEWS:

BEGIN QUOTE

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA, ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES  
STATED IN THE LETTERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE MOVEMENT  
OF THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES HAVE DECIDED TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC  
RELATIONS AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL, AND TO PROMOTE CONSULAR,  
CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC LINKS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GABORO 03172 141223Z

END QUOTE

2. WHEN ASKED BY EMBOFF ON DEC 11 WHETHER THE TWO GOVERNMENTS  
PLANNED TO EXCHANGE RESIDENT AMBASSADORS, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
SECRETARY L.M. MPOTOKWANE TOLD EMBOFF THAT PROPOSAL OF SUCH  
A DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE LEFT UP TO CUBAN INITIATIVE. FOR THE

TIME BEING, HOWEVER, THE CUBANS WOULD BE REPRESENTED HERE BY THEIR AMBASSADOR IN LUSAKA. AS YET, THE GOB HAD NAMED NO AMBASSADOR TO CUBA; BUT IF IT DID, HE WOULD PROBABLY BE BASED IN NEW YORK.

3. COMMENT: FOR NOW, WE SEE TWO MOTIVES TO EXPLAIN WHY BOTSWANA TOOK THIS STEP WITH THE CUBANS. THE FIRST IS THAT AS A CAPITALIST RECIPIENT OF LARGE DOSES OF WESTERN AID FUNDS AND AS A COUNTRY WHICH IS ECONOMICALLY DEPENDENT ON BOTH RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA, BOTSWANA FELT IT NEEDED TO SHORE UP ITS CREDENTIALS AS A "PROGRESSIVE" AND NON-ALIGNED BLACK AFRICAN STATE WITH THE FRONTLINE STATES, SEVERAL OF THE LATTER HAVING HAD RESIDENT CUBAN MISSIONS FOR SOME TIME. SIMILARLY, THE GOB PROBABLY FEELS THAT RELATIONS WITH CUBA MAY IMPROVE ITS IMAGE WITH THE LEFT-THINKING YOUTH HERE, MANY OF WHOM ARE IN THE UNIVERSITY AND SEEM TO BE DRIFTING AWAY FROM THE RULING BOTSWANA DEMOCRATIC PARTY TOWARD THE OPPOSITION AND MARXIST BOTSWANA NATIONAL FRONT (BNF).

4. THE SECOND MOTIVE (TO WHICH WE ATTRIBUTE FAR LESS IMPORTANCE IN GOB THINKING), AS SUGGESTED BY OUR SEPTEMBER CONVERSATION WITH EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MOGWE (REF A), MIGHT BE THAT THROUGH ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BOTSWANA COULD BETTER CONTROL CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN BOTSWANA (NOTE OUR PREVIOUS REPORTING ON SOVIET/CUBAN TIES WITH THE BNF) AS WELL AS HELP MODIFY CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AS A WHOLE.  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GABORO 03172 141223Z

5. ON DEC 12 HIRSCHFELD AND FRANKLIN OF SPECIAL BRANCH TOLD DCM THAT CUBANS WOULD ESTABLISH RESIDENT AMBASSADOR HERE, ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT KNOW WHEN. THUS, DESPITE MPOTOKWANE'S PARTIAL HEDGING ON QUESTION OF THE EXCHANGE OF RESIDENT AMBASSADORS WITH CUBA (SEE PARA 2) AND OUR LATE OCTOBER CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT KHAMA WHEN HE TOLD US THAT HE THOUGHT CUBAN AMBASSJDOR TO BOTSWANA WOULD BE RESIDENT ELSEWHERE, PERHAPS LUSAKA (REF B), WE MUST NOW RECOGNIZE THE STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT WE WILL SOONER OR LATER HAVE CUBAN COLLEAGUES IN GABORONE. EVEN IF THE CUBANS MOVE INTO GABORONE, HOWEVER, WE SUSPECT THAT THEIR PRESENCE HERE IS LIKELY TO BE RELATIVELY RESERVED, SIMILAR TO THE UNSPECTACULAR PERFORMANCE PUT ON BY THE RESIDENT SOVIETS AND RED CHINESE TO DATE. WHAT THEY MIGHT ATTEMPT TO DO FROM HERE (E.G., IN SOUTH AFRICA) WILL BE SUBJECT OF LATER REPORT.  
NORLAND

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 14-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977GABORO03172  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770465-0291  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** GABORONE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19771258/aaaabxct.tel  
**Line Count:** 110  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 4032d504-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 GABORONE 2236, 77 GABORONE 2684  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 243902  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ESTABLISHMENT OF DUBAN-BOTSWANA DEPLOMATIC RELATIONS  
**TAGS:** PDIP, PINT, BC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/4032d504-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009